

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1072

By Henry

A RESOLUTION to congratulate the members of the Horticultural Society of Middle Tennessee on the occasion of its 75th anniversary.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is pleased to commend those public service organizations whose members have banded together to positively affect their communities and their state through community service projects, landscape beautification campaigns, and significant conservation and educational programs; and

WHEREAS, one such laudable organization is the Horticultural Society of Middle Tennessee; 2006 marks the seventy-fifth anniversary of this venerable organization, which was founded as the Horticultural Society of Davidson County on March 13, 1931, with Mrs. Jesse H. Overton serving as president; and

WHEREAS, the early focus of the Society was landscape design and flower show schools, and home and garden tours provided early funds; and

WHEREAS, the Society initiated the Home and Neighborhood Development (HANDS) Project in 1958; the project, a city-wide beautification and conservation program funded in part by the Sears Foundation, has received numerous awards and accolades, including the 1975 and 1976 Awards of Excellence; and

WHEREAS, the Society office was established at the Cheekwood Mansion in 1960; in 1970, plans were drawn for Botanic Hall, which included an office for the Horticultural Society, and the Hall was dedicated on May, 2, 1971. The Horticultural Society donated the first \$100,000 toward the building of Botanic Hall and, subsequently, the Horticultural Society Library, which had been located at Sears, was donated to Cheekwood; and

WHEREAS, the Horticultural Society of Middle Tennessee's seventy garden clubs comprise a membership of approximately 1,600; and

WHEREAS, in 1965, "Trees of Christmas" was launched to benefit Cheekwood, and proceeds from subsequent "Trees of Christmas" exhibits and the related book are in excess of two million dollars. The funds have been used for display greenhouses, maintenance of Botanic Hall, the Botanical Gardens, and the general operating expenses of Cheekwood, and each year, over 35,000 attend what has become one of Nashville's most popular traditions; and

WHEREAS, other significant contributions of the Horticultural Society to the Tennessee Botanical Gardens and Fine Arts Center include funds for scholarships, equipment, and the Society's library; and

WHEREAS, the achievements of the Horticultural Society of Middle Tennessee during its history are clearly worthy of our commendation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we join with the officers and members of the Horticultural Society of Middle Tennessee in celebrating 75 years of worthy accomplishments and outstanding service to the good people of Middle Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we thank them for their many contributions and offer them our best wishes for much continued success and satisfaction in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.